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The thanks of the Academy were voted to Professor Gray for his efficient services as Corresponding Secretary.

Professor Peirce proposed that special meetings of the Academy should be holden on the first Tuesdays in June and July, at four o'clock, P. M.

Voted, that such meetings be holden.

Three hundred and thirty-third meeting.

June 4, 1850. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Dr. A. A. Gould declined serving as a member of the Committee of Publication, and Professor Joseph Lovering was nominated by the chair, and unanimously chosen, to fill the vacancy.

Professor Agassiz presented some new views respecting the coloration of animals. He stated that the coloration of the lower animals living in water depends upon the condition, and particularly upon the depth and transparency, of the water in which they live; that the coloration of the higher types of animals is intimately related to their structure; and that the change of color which is produced by age in many animals is connected with structural changes. He stated that coloration is valuable as an indication of structure; that it is a law universally true of vertebrated animals, that they have the color of the back darker than that of the sides; and that the same system of coloration prevails in all the species of a genus, — partially developed in some, but recognizable when a large number of species is examined.

Professor Peirce expressed the opinion, that there are errors in the lunar theory that still remain to be investigated; that occultations cannot be relied on as a means of accurately determining longitude; and that they are of little use for any purpose, except when whole groups of stars, as the Pleiades or Hyades, are taken.

He made some remarks upon the orbit of the comet of 1843, considered as a straight line directed through the sun's centre.

Three hundred and thirty-fourth meeting.

July 2, 1850. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated letters of acceptance from Professor Elias Fries of Sweden, and M. Macédoine Melloni of Naples, recently elected Foreign Members. The latter gentleman states that he has sent to the Academy the first volume of his work, " Sur la Coloration Calorifique," in which he has demonstrated, as he believes, the identity of light and heat.

The Corresponding Secretary also communicated letters from the Secretary of the Royal Institution, the Secretary of the Linnæan Society, the Librarian of the British Museum, and the President of the Academy of Breslau, acknowledging the receipt of various publications of the Academy; and two letters from Petty Vaughan, Esq., recently deceased.

Professor Peirce stated, that Mr. Schubert had discovered that Spica is a double star, one of the component parts of which is invisible. This conclusion was deduced by Mr. Schubert from observations made from 1764 to 1847 inclusive, and was said by Professor Peirce to rest on much stronger grounds than the similar conclusions of Bessel in regard to certain other stars. Spica has an irregular motion in right ascension, and it revolves in fifty years at the distance of one second and a half from the common centre of gravity of the two. This discovery Professor Peirce considered a most remarkable step in the progress of stellar astronomy.

Mr. S. C. Walker exhibited to the Academy a drawing illustrative of the results of experiments made by him on the 4th of February last, to determine the velocity of electricity,